

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on the upper surface of a floor which floor covering has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed one or more studs which, in use, provide an air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.
2. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the floor covering is chemically or mechanically modified to ensure that there is adequate grip between the lower surface of the floor covering and the floor to which it is applied.
3. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 2 wherein the modification is in the form of a softening and/or a roughening of the lower surface.
4. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is roughened by including a blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.
5. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is softened by including additional plasticiser or a chemical blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.

6. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 which includes one or more particulate materials in the upper surface of the floor covering to provide slip resistance.
7. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 6 wherein a particulate material is embedded in the upper surface of the flooring material which material is at least partially proud from the upper surface to achieve adequate slip resistance.
8. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ which is preferably Claim 1 comprising a plastics flooring material.
9. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 which includes a plastics material which is selected from the group consisting of a PVC, a plasticised PVC, a polyurethane, an epoxy resin, an acrylic, a plasticised acrylic, a polyurefin, a polyester, and/or other suitable thermoplastics, preferably the floor covering includes a PVC plastisol.
10. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 ~~or Claim 9~~ which includes a plastics material preferably in an amount of 100 to 200 php, a blowing agent preferably in an amount from 0 to 2 parts per hundred parts of plastics material (php), filler preferably in an amount of from 0 to 100 php, thermal stabiliser preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php, and/or a pigment preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php.
11. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the previous Claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the floor covering is a heterogenous floor covering.

12. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the previous Claims~~

Claim 1 which includes a wear layer.

13. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~

Claim 1 wherein the upper surface includes a decorative element such as a pigment and/or a PVC chip.

14. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~

Claim 1 which includes a support, ~~more preferably a reinforcing support~~.

15. (original) A method of laying a slip resistant floor covering to decorate and ventilate a

concrete floor having an upper surface which method includes loose laying on the upper surface of the floor a floor covering having a decorative slip resistant upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed a plurality of studs and/or other suitable profiles which provide an air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

16. (currently amended) A method as defined in Claim 15 wherein the floor covering is as

defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1.